

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT: PARA 1.)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE AND SEABEE HOUSING AT ALEXANDRIA

REF: BEIRUT 8026

1. AS I HAVE HAD OCCASION TO STATE ONCE BEFORE, I WOULD APPRECIATE THE RSS STAYING OUT OF EMBASSY CAIRO BUSINESS EXCEPT WHEN ASKED. I AM AS CONCERNED AS HE IS ABOUT MARINES AND SEABEES AT ALEXANDRIA HAVING REASONABLE HOUSING, BUT AS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MORALE OF THIS POST I AM EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT MY OVERBURDENED STAFF HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE GRUELING SUMMER MONTHS OF CAIRO TO SPEND A FEW DAYS IN ALEXANDRIA FOR BADLY NEEDED RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

2. AS DEPT AWARE, THE ONLY REST QUARTERS WE HAVE IN ALEXANDRIA IS PATHAY HOUSE. THIS IS WHERE EMBASSY STAFF PERSONNEL, WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE HIGH PRICES OF ALEXANDRIA APARTMENTS OR HOUSES, HAVE REGULARLY GONE TO GET A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM CAIRO AND THEIR WORK. IN JANUARY, WHEN RECONSTRUCTION OF ALEXANDRIA CONGEN PREMISES WAS BEGUN, I RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT MARINES AND SEABEES MIGHT USE PATHAY HOUSE, BUT DID SO ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE PREMISES WOULD BE AVAILABLE COME THE SUMMER MONTHS FOR STAFF USE.

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CONGEN REHABILITATION WORK HAS DRAGGED ON FAR BEYOND THE

INITIAL ESTIMATES AND LATEST COMPLETION DATE GIVEN IS OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH I WILL HAVE TO SEE THAT TO BELIEVE IT.

3. IN CONTEXT OF MY ORIGINAL AGREEMENT THAT MARINES AND SEABEES COULD USE PATHAY HOUSE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAD REGULAR STAFF REQUIREMENT FOR IT, I HAVE GIVEN MY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ORDERS TO MOVE THEM OUT BY JULY 1 AND FIND OTHER SUITABLE QUARTERS FOR THEM. THIS WILL ENABLE STAFF TO USE PATHAY HOUSE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS OF THE SUMMER. I HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF USING PART OF PATHAY HOUSE FOR MARINES/SEABEES AND REMAINDER FOR STAFF, BUT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THIS IS NOT A SUITABLE ARRANGEMENT FOR EITHER PARTY

4. ACTING ON MY INSTRUCTIONS, THE CONGEN STAFF LOCATED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A GOOD ALTERNATIVE AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL (SHUTZ SCHOOL) WHERE THE MARINES AND SEABEES COULD LIVE. THIS ALTERNATIVE WAS DISCUSSED BY THE PSO AND RSO ON JUNE 16 IN ALEXANDRIA. THE SCHOOL FACILITIES ARE DORMITORY-TYPE QUARTERS WITH CAFETERIA, POOL AND TENNIS COURTS. THE ENTIRE PACKAGE (LODGING-FOOD-RECREATION) WOULD COST THE MEN ABOUT \$10 A DAY, WHICH IS WELL WITHIN THEIR ALLOWANCE. AFTER INSPECTING THE SCHOOL THE MARINES DECIDED THAT, BECAUSE OF LIMITED BEDROOM FURNITURE, NO GUARANTEES OF MAINTENANCE AND RIGID MEALTIMES SCHEDULES, THEY WOULD RATHER HAVE OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS. LT. HOFF SPOKE TO SEABEES ON HIS RECENT INSPECTION VISIT AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY TAKE FULL PER DIEM AND FIND THEIR OWN HOUSING. I UNDERSTAND TWO OF THE SEABEES INTEND TO STAY AT THE SHUTZ SCHOOL AND ONE WILL MOVE TO A PRIVATE APT OR HOTEL. THE CONGEN HAS LOCATED A THREE-BEDROOM APARTMENT WHICH IS CLOSER TO THE COMSEC PROJECT WHICH CAN HOUSE MARINES. THE NCOIC IS TRAVELLING TO ALEXANDRIA JUNE 27 TO INSPECT THIS RESIDENCE. IF ACCEPTABLE, THE EMBASSY WILL SIGN LEASE FOR MARINE OCCUPANCY. IF NOT, WE WILL LOOK FOR OTHER QUARTERS.

5. AT SUCH TIME AS I NEED RSS'S HELP OR ADVICE, I WILL GLADLY CALL FOR IT. I HAVE NO NEED FOR IT IN THIS INSTANCE. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, NO RPT NO "CRISIS" EXISTS AND THE PROBLEM IS ONE WHICH WE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HANDLE. SHOULD RSS AT ANY TIME HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, HE IS WELCOME TO PUT THEM DIRECTLY TO ME.
EILTS

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